

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

DIRECTV, INC., a California
corporation,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 03-1636-HO

v.

ORDER

CORY HAIN, et al.,

Defendants.

Plaintiff moves for default judgment against defendant David Hebda, pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 55(b), for entry of a permanent injunction, and for attorney fees and costs. The court previously granted plaintiff's motion for entry of default against Hebda. See Order dated August 11, 2004.

Discussion

Upon default, the factual allegations of the complaint are generally taken as true, except the allegations relating to

damages. Televideo Systems, Inc. v. Heidenthal, 826 F.2d 915, 917 (9th Cir. 1987). The court is not required to make detailed findings regarding liability. Fair Housing of Marin v. Combs, 285 F.3d 889, 906 (9th Cir. 2002). The complaint alleges Hebda purchased three "pirate access device" consisting of a programmer, a printed circuit board device called a "Boot Loader Board," and a printed circuit board device called an "Emulator," from Li Sang/DSS-PRO using interstate or foreign wire facilities and the Postal Service or commercial mail carriers. Complaint, ¶ 8. The complaint further alleges defendants (1) received and/or assisted others in receiving plaintiff's satellite transmissions of television programming without authorization in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605(a), (2) imported or caused to be imported to the United States, manufactured, assembled, modified, sold or distributed signal theft devices, knowing or having reason to know that the design of such devices render them primarily for the unauthorized decryption of DIRECTV's satellite transmissions of television programming, or for the purpose of assisting other persons in the unauthorized reception of DIRECTV's satellite transmission of television programming, in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(4), and (3) intentionally intercepted, endeavored to intercept or procured others to intercept or endeavor to intercept plaintiff's satellite transmissions of television programming using pirate access devices in violation of 18 U.S.C.

§ 2511(1)(a). Complaint at 8-9.¹ Based on these allegations, the court finds Hebda liable on plaintiff's first, second and third claims alleging violations of 47 U.S.C. § 605(a), 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(4) and 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a), respectively.

Where default judgment is possible based on sufficient allegations, the court retains discretion to grant or withhold judgment. Eitel v. McCool, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986). In this case, resolution on the merits is not possible, because Hebda has not appeared; the allegations of the first, second and third claims state claims upon which relief may be granted; there are no disputed issues of fact as a result of Hebda's non-appearance; and nothing suggests Hebda's default is the result of excusable neglect. Default judgment is therefore appropriate. Id.

Upon finding a violation of Section 605(a) or 605(e)(4), the court may grant an injunction on such terms it deems just to restrain future violations of Section 605(a). 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(B)(i). A person whose communication is intercepted in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a) may obtain an injunction. 18 U.S.C. § 2520(b)(1). Following these standards, Hebda is permanently enjoined from (1) receiving, assisting in receiving, transmitting, assisting in transmitting, divulging, or publishing

¹Plaintiff withdraws its fourth claim for violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2512(1)(b). Pl's Motion at 2.

DIRECTV satellite transmissions in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605(a), (2) importing, manufacturing, assembling, modifying, selling or distributing any electronic, mechanical or other device or equipment, knowing or having reason to know that the device or equipment is primarily of assistance in the unauthorized decryption of DIRECTV's satellite transmissions of television programming, or is intended to assist other persons in the unauthorized reception of DIRECTV's satellite transmission of television programming, in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605(e) (4); and (3) intercepting, endeavoring to intercept, or procuring any other person to intercept or endeavor to intercept DIRECTV's satellite transmissions in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a).

Plaintiff seeks statutory damages in the amount of \$10,000 for violations of 47 U.S.C. §§ 605(a) and 605(e) (4), and 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a). A party aggrieved by violation of Section 605(a) or 605(e) (4) may recover statutory damages of not less than \$1,000, or more than \$10,000 for each violation as the court considers just. 47 U.S.C. § 605(e) (3) (C) (i) (II). In a civil action, the court has discretion to award statutory damages for violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a), but if it chooses to do so it must award the greater of \$100 a day for each day of violation or \$10,000.² 18 U.S.C. § 2520(c) (2).

²Relying on Rodgers v. Wood, 910 F.2d 444, 447-48 (7th Cir. 1990), plaintiff argues that an award of statutory damages under 18 U.S.C. § 2520(c) (2) is mandatory. Rodgers states the minority

According to plaintiff's witness, a "bootloader" is a hardware device designed to permit the use of disabled access cards in DIRECTV receivers, bootloaders have no plausible legitimate uses, and no additional software is required to intercept DIRECTV's signal. Sichler Decl., ¶ 30. An "emulator" is a device that connects to a serial port of a personal computer and to the slot where an access card usually resides in a DIRECTV receiver. Id., ¶ 31. The computer is also connected to a smart card reader/writer with a DIRECTV access card inserted. Id. Emulation software on the computer duplicates certain functions of the access card and protects the access card from plaintiff's anti-piracy measures, permitting the user to view all unauthorized DIRECTV programming without payment. Id. A "programmer" is used to permit the illegal programming of valid DIRECTV access cards for obtaining DIRECTV programming without payment. Id., ¶ 32.

Plaintiff submitted evidence that Hebda purchased a bootloader, emulator and programmer on November 8, 2001, and that Hebda subscribed to plaintiff's satellite programming beginning in 1998, so that, according to defendant's witness, Hebda would have possessed all the equipment needed to intercept plaintiff's encrypted programming. Sichler Decl., ¶ 29, 33, Exs. 1-2. There

rule, and the court follows the majority rule that a statutory damage award is discretionary. See DIRECTV, Inc. v. Griffin, 290 F.Supp.2d 1340, 1346 n.25 (M.D.Fla. 2003) (collecting cases).

is no evidence that Hebda successfully intercepted plaintiff's programming, however. For this reason, the court declines to award statutory damages.

Plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(B)(iii) (award mandatory); 18 U.S.C. § 2520(b)(3) (award discretionary). Plaintiff seeks attorneys' fees in the amount of \$2,203.59, and costs in the amount of \$228.63. The attorneys' fee request is reasonable, and is allowed. Plaintiff submitted detailed documentation of attorney time expended. Smith Decl., Ex. 1. The award is based on hourly rates of \$250 for Portland attorneys Long and Smith, admitted to practice in 1992 and 1991, respectively, and \$180 for Portland attorney Tarbox, admitted in 1999. The rates are somewhat higher than average rates for Portland attorneys with similar experience reported in the 2002 Oregon State Bar Economic Survey (13-15 years = \$189, 10-12 years = \$187, 4-6 years = \$165). The higher rates are justified to compensate for inflation, and because plaintiff's attorneys have significant experience litigating the claims at issue. According to plaintiff, its attorneys have filed 52 lawsuits against 190 defendants on it's behalf. The court is handling several of these cases, and has observed that the claims are similar in many, if not all of the cases with which the court is familiar.

The cost bill reflects costs expended for the process server

fee, records searches, subpoena fees, photocopying and express mail. The costs do not appear unreasonable, and are allowed.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motion for default judgment and permanent injunction [#123] and motion for attorney fees and costs [#118] relating to defendant David Hebda are granted to the extent provided herein.

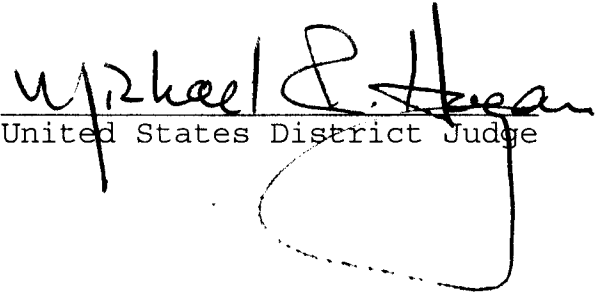
David Hebda is permanently enjoined from (1) receiving, assisting in receiving, transmitting, assisting in transmitting, divulging, or publishing DIRECTV satellite transmissions in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605, (2) importing, manufacturing, assembling, modifying, selling or distributing any electronic, mechanical or other device or equipment, knowing or having reason to know that the device or equipment is primarily of assistance in the unauthorized decryption of DIRECTV's satellite transmissions of television programming, or is intended to assist other persons in the unauthorized reception of DIRECTV's satellite transmissions of television programming, in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(4), and (3) intercepting, endeavoring to intercept, or procuring any other person to intercept or endeavor to intercept DIRECTV's satellite transmissions in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a).

The clerk is directed to enter final default judgment against David Hebda. The judgment shall provide that plaintiff

shall take no damages on its claims, and that plaintiff shall recover from David Hebda \$228.63 in costs, and \$2,203.59 in attorneys' fees for prosecuting this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 22nd day of July, 2005.


United States District Judge